



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SDDVA MINI CONFERENCES

This week the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted their Spring Mini Conferences in Rapid City, Pierre, and Sioux Falls. The conferences are designed to provide updated information and educational materials for county and tribal veterans service officers.

This year's conference included training on National Guard/VA benefits, the VA Appeals Modernization Act, tips on how to use the 38CFR, aid and attendance, static ratings, protected ratings, and Blue Water Vietnam claims.



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Presenters included SDDVA's Heather Bullerman, Kevin Bowen, Kevin Swanson, and Brett Dickerson.

"The Mini Conferences provided me a great opportunity to network with our country and tribal veterans service officers," said SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock. "The CTVSOs are the first point of contact for many



veterans, so it is important that they have an understanding of all the changes in benefits provided by the VA."

SDDVA's next training will be the annual benefit school August 26-29 in Pierre.



SDDVA PARTNERS WITH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) and the South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association (AA) announced a partnership to better connect South Dakota's veterans with the resources for Alzheimer's and other dementias. Together they are collaborating on outreach opportunities for veterans and their families to learn more about the educational materials, care and support services offered by the Alzheimer's Association.

It is estimated that 17,000 South Dakotans are living with Alzheimer's, many of which are veterans.

"We need to ease the burden of this disease for all who are impacted," said Kathi Herreid, state director of the South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia impacts every aspect of the caregiver's daily life. As an Alzheimer's patient loses one ability after another, a caregiver faces tests of stamina, problem solving, and resiliency.

"Learning all we can about memory-related diseases is beneficial for our veterans, their families, and our staff," said Brad Richardson, superintendent of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. "Increasing awareness about the resources available will enhance the lives of our veterans and their caregivers."

Richardson's staff will have the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association by wearing "End Alzheimer's" t-shirts on Fridays and donating to the fund.

To learn more about Alzheimer's and the South Dakota Chapter of Alzheimer's Association visit <https://www.alz.org/sd>.



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN BRANDON'S LOYALTY DAY PARADE

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard joined numerous veterans service organizations to participate in the annual Loyalty Day parade in Brandon last weekend. This is the 54th year that Brandon has hosted their Loyalty Day Parade.

This year's theme was "Salute to America," and afforded attendees a mixture of being thankful for our country, honoring those who have served, and just having a great time.



Loyalty Day was established by Congress on April 27, 1955, and was made an official reoccurring holiday by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

PIERRE COMMUNITY PURPLES UP



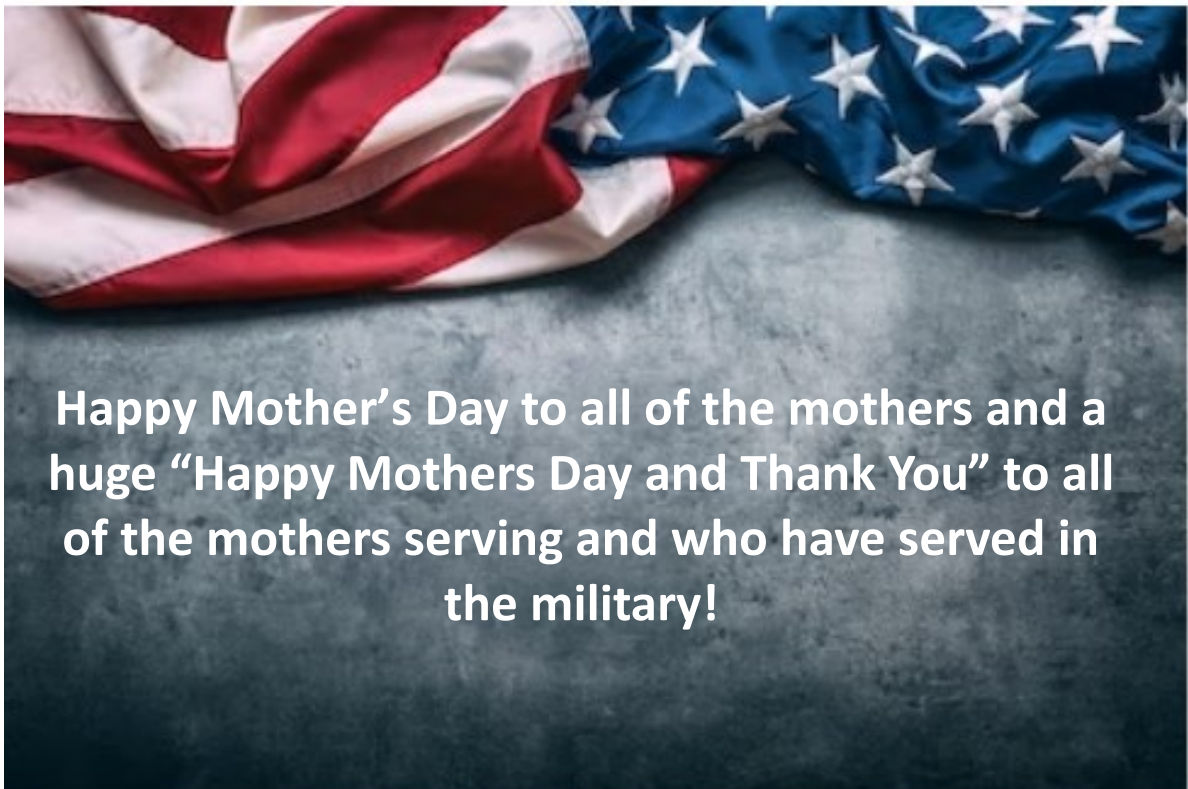
Ken Teunissen, state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the Dakotas was in Pierre this week to honor the Pierre community and one of Pierre's businesses.

Pierre Mayor Steve Harding proclaimed Pierre a "Purple Heart Capital City." Commander Teunissen presented Mayor Harding with special signage.



Cynthia Arch, owner and general manager of the "Cattleman's Club Steakhouse" in Pierre was presented with the "Purple Heart Business" recognition. Arch noted that they have also made application to have their steakhouse in Mitchell named a "Purple Heart Business."

Pictures provided by Ken Teunissen and Patrick Callahan.



VA CELEBRATES ‘SCIENCE OF HOPE’ DURING NATIONAL RESEARCH WEEK

In celebration of important medical research conducted by the U.S Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), VA medical centers (VAMCs) nationwide will showcase innovative solutions that VA scientists are developing and bringing into clinical practice with help of university partners and other public and private institutions during VA Research Week, May 13-17.

VAMCs will commemorate VA [Research Week](#) with special events such as tours of their research facilities, lectures, poster displays and luncheons to honor the veterans who voluntarily participate in VA Research studies.

“The Science of Hope,” VA’s 2019 Research Week theme, underscores the promise that the department’s research brings to veterans and their loved ones coping with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, limb loss, chronic disease and other serious health challenges.

“One of the most important things we accomplish every day in the VA is bringing new hope to veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The VA research plays a huge role in that mission. Scientists at VA medical centers across the nation are changing the face of medicine and rehabilitation.”

Examples of current VA Research include advances in prosthetics, such as artificial hands that restore a sense of natural touch; and in precision oncology, which uses molecular analysis of tumors and other individual patient factors to customize cancer treatment.

A focus of VA Research Week includes VA’s [Million Veteran Program \(MVP\)](#), one of the world’s largest genomic databases. As of mid-April, the program has enrolled nearly 750,000 veterans. Researchers using MVP data have published important findings on the genetics of hypertension, substance use disorders and other important topics.

In 2019, the VA celebrates 94 years of VA Research. To learn more about the work of VA researchers, past and present, visit www.research.va.gov. For more information on local and national events marking National VA Research Week, visit www.research.va.gov/researchweek.



Special Opening Reception
May 31, 2019, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Silent Silos

South Dakota's Missile Field



You are invited to a special opening reception for the new exhibit

"Silent Silos: South Dakota's Missile Field"

May 31 - 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Presentation & Proclamation at 5:15 p.m.

MC Jay D. Vogt, Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, will preside over a brief ceremony including a Proclamation from the Governor and special guest speakers from 5:15 to 5:45. Don't miss it!

Hors' d'oeuvres and Refreshments Served

RSVP by contacting the SD State Historical Society at 605-773-3458

The exhibit is a collaboration between the Museum and the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in Phillip and it focuses attention on the role of South Dakota and its citizens during the Cold War, from 1963-1994.



SOUTH DAKOTA CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD - 605-773-3458 - history.sd.gov

Museum Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sat. & Holidays: 1 - 4:30 p.m.

MJFSVH HONORS VOLUNTEERS

In observance of "Volunteer Week," Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home hosted an honors banquet for all of their volunteers. Those honored collectively dedicated over 1,050 hours this year.

Following a great meal prepared by Chef Joe Washburn, Superintendent Brad Richardson welcomed the guests and thanked them for their dedication to our heroes.

Activities Director Laura Inman played a video with photos of residents, volunteers, and staff participating in events throughout the year. She then shared the verse "One Life" and symbolically showed how their volunteerism contributes to the lives of our heroes.

Each volunteer was presented with a "volunteer" shirt to wear when they are on campus.

"Our Volunteers are greatly appreciated by residents and staff," said Deputy Superintendent Teresa Phillipson. "They have become part of the extended family here at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home and add to the quality of life of our residents."



"One Life"

One Song can spark a moment
One Flower can wake the dream
One tree can start a forest
One bird can herald spring
One smile begins a Friendship
One handclasp lifts a soul
One star can guide a ship at sea
One word can frame a goal
One vote can change a nation
One sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness
One laugh will conquer a gloom
One step must start a journey
One word must start a prayer
One hope will raise our spirits
One touch can show you care
One voice can speak with wisdom
One heart can know what is true
One Life can make a difference



WE  VE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 14—Bill Casper's Annual WW II Luncheon—TREA—Rapid City
May 15—VABHHCS 9th Annual National VA2K—VABHHCS Campus—10:00 am (MT)
May 15—SFVAHCS VA2K—SFVAHCS Campus—11:00 am (CT)
May 15—VABHHCS Baby Shower—VABHHCS—Bldg 90—Dakota Room—Fort Meade—6:00 pm (MT)
May 16—SFVAHCS Women's Health Clinic Open House—First Floor of Medical Center—4:30 pm (CT)
May 16—VABHHCS Veterans Orientation Program (Room 133) Rapid City CBOC—4:30 pm (MT)
May 17—Veterans Honor Concert—State Veterans Home—Hot Springs—2:00 pm (MT)
May 17-19—DAV Convention—Hilton Garden Inn (5300 S. Grand Circle) —Sioux Falls
May 18—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
May 27—MJFSVH Memorial Day Car Show—Hot Springs—9:00 am (MT)
Jun 6—SFVAHCS 2nd Annual VA Baby Shower—DAV (1519 W. 51st Street) - Sioux Falls—6:00 pm (CT)
Jun 6-9—American Legion State Convention—Sioux Falls Convention Center
Jun 8—Department of SD Marine Corps League State Convention—American Legion Post 8—Pierre—10:00 am (CT)
Jun 13-16—VFW State Convention—Dakota State University—Madison
Jun 15—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
Jun 20—VABHHCS Veterans Orientation Program (Building 53—Room 102) Hot Springs—4:30 pm (MT)
Jun 29—Veterans for Veterans Annual Poker Run—Mitchell Depot Bar and Grill—11:00 am (CT)
Jul 17—South Dakota Veterans Council—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Jul 20—PVA 5th Annual Poker Run—Thirsty Duck Bar and Grill (945 S. Marion Road) - Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
July 20-24—National VFW Convention—Orlando, FL
Jul 20—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
Aug 3-6—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL
Aug 17—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
Aug 29—Veterans Day at the Fair
Aug 26-29—SDDVA Benefit School
Sep 21—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)
Sep 21—Davison County Veterans Wellness and Benefit Fair—Mitchell Corn Palace—8:00 am—4:30 pm (CT)

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